

MSHA HAZARD ALERT



Two recent accidents, which injured miners, occurred when excessive pressure caused vessels to rupture. MSHA believes these types of accidents can be eliminated if mine operators adopt and follow the procedures listed below:

- ☛ Consult with the equipment manufacturer and ensure that all pressure vessels are installed and maintained as specified by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.
- ☛ Operate all pressurized systems within design limits.
- ☛ Test all relief valves and safety systems on a scheduled basis.
- ☛ Particular attention should be paid to piping, valves, pumps and vessels which are infrequently used for emergencies or overflow.
- ☛ Test all piping to identify restrictions or blockage and initiate prompt corrections.
- ☛ Inspect all vessels on a scheduled basis to certify integrity.
- ☛ Train miners to identify symptoms of over pressurization.
- ☛ Establish procedures to be implemented should an unexpected event occur **AND** ensure that miners are knowledgeable of these procedures.
- ☛ Log all repair work orders and maintenance work.

